



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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HFI-35 8/30/97
531

August 13, 1997

WARNING LETTER NO. 97-NOL-56

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Steven D. Laton, President
Equinox Oil Company
10077 Grograns Mill Road
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Dear Mr. Laton:

This letter is to inform you of deviations from the Interstate Conveyance Sanitation Regulations (Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1240), observed by a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigator, during an inspection of your vessel watering point located at Equinox Oil Company, 138 Exxon Road, Port Sulphur, Louisiana, on August 11, 1997.

Discrepancies noted during the inspection include the following:

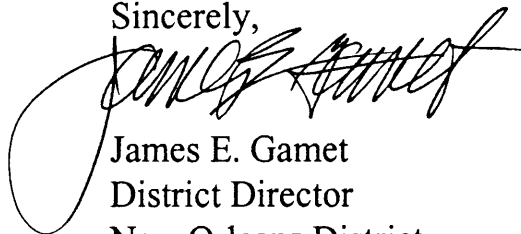
- 1) blackflow prevention device not installed on potable water outlet hydrant;
- 2) potable water hydrant not identified for its intended use;
- 3) cap and keeper chain are not installed on a potable water hydrant.

Accordingly, we are classifying the watering point as PROVISIONAL for interstate carrier use for a period of thirty days. "Provisional" classification means that the watering point may continue to operate; however, significant corrections of deficiencies must be made by the expiration date. On or about that date, a reinspection of this facility will be conducted to assure that corrections meet FDA requirements.

If significant corrections are not made by September 12, 1997, the vessel watering point will be reclassified as "Not Approved" for carrier use.

Please advise this office in writing, within ten (10) days, of actions you have taken to correct the deficiencies and to assure that such violations will not recur. Your response should be directed to Nicole F. Hardin, Compliance Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 4298 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70122-3896.

Sincerely,



James E. Gamet
District Director
New Orleans District

Enclosure: FDA 483

cc: Mr. Steven D. Cognevich
Senior Production Supervisor
Equinox Oil Company
P.O. Box 600
Port Sulphur, Louisiana 70083

/tjt